

Applicant : Yuhm Wang et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 11030-007004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~An interface~~ A device for coupling ~~[[an]] a mechanical~~ input device to a first surgical apparatus and a second surgical apparatus, comprising:
an interface that has ~~a first an~~ input channel configured to be coupled to ~~[[the]] a~~ mechanical input device, a first output channel configured to be coupled to ~~[[the]] a~~ first surgical apparatus and a second output channel configured to be coupled to ~~[[the]] a~~ second surgical apparatus, ~~[[said]] the~~ interface having a select channel that switches ~~[[said]] the~~ first input channel between ~~[[said]] the~~ first output channel and ~~[[said]] the~~ second output channel; and a speech interface configured to receive voice commands and provide command signals to the select channel to control the switching thereof.
2. (Currently amended) ~~The interface as recited in~~ device of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]] the~~ interface includes a ~~multiplexer~~ multiplexer.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) ~~The interface as recited in~~ device of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, further comprising a central processing unit which is coupled to ~~[[said]] the~~ speech interface and ~~[[said]] the~~ select channel, the central processing unit operable to provide an indication of which output channel the input channel is switched to.

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5. (Currently amended) A surgical system, comprising:
a first surgical apparatus;
a second surgical apparatus;
[[an]] a mechanical input device which provides a control signal to said first surgical apparatus or said second surgical apparatus; [[and,]]
an interface that has ~~a first~~ an input channel coupled to [[said]] the mechanical input device, a first output channel coupled to [[said]] the first surgical apparatus and a second output channel coupled to [[said]] the second surgical apparatus, [[said]] the interface having a select channel that switches [[said]] the first input channel between [[said]] the first output channel and [[said]] the second output channel; and
a speech interface configured to receive voice commands and provide command signals to the select channel to control the switching thereof.
6. (Currently amended) The surgical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 5, wherein [[said]] the mechanical input device is a foot pedal.
- 7-9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently amended) The surgical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 5, wherein [[said]] the first surgical apparatus is an electrocautery device.
11. (Currently amended) The surgical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 5, wherein [[said]] the first surgical apparatus is a robotic arm.
12. (Currently amended) The surgical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 5, wherein [[said]] the first surgical apparatus is a laser.
13. (Currently amended) The surgical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 5, wherein [[said]] the first surgical apparatus is an operating table.

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14. (Currently amended) The surgical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 10, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the second surgical apparatus is a robotic arm.

15. (Currently amended) The surgical system ~~as recited in~~ of claim 14, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the mechanical input device is a foot pedal.

16.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for operating a first surgical apparatus and a second surgical apparatus from ~~[[a]]~~ an input device, comprising the steps of:

a) providing an interface that has ~~a first~~ an input channel coupled to ~~[[the]]~~ a mechanical input device, a first output channel coupled to ~~[[the]]~~ a first surgical apparatus, and a second output channel coupled to ~~[[the]]~~ a second surgical apparatus;

b) switching ~~[[said]]~~ the interface in response to a first voice command so that ~~[[said]]~~ the first input channel is coupled to ~~[[said]]~~ the first output channel and the mechanical input device controls the first surgical device; and,

c) switching ~~[[said]]~~ the interface in response to a second voice command so that ~~[[said]]~~ the first input channel is coupled to ~~[[said]]~~ the second output channel and the mechanical input device controls the second surgical device.

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A method comprising:

receiving an input from a mechanical input device;

receiving a voice command;

converting the voice command to a command signal; and

switching, responsive to the command signal, the input to one of a first or second surgical apparatus to allow for control of the respective surgical apparatus using the mechanical input device.